

Seaford U.D.B.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

INTELL. LIBRARY SEAFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1925.



Area in Acres	3078	} Census Returns 1921
Census Population	6989	
Number of inhabited houses	1161	
Rateable value	£45748	
Sum represented by one penny rate	£172	

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>
Population estimated to middle of year.	4715	6991	7011	7053	7085	7434
Birth rate per 1000 of Population	22.0	11.2	14.0	10.3	11.0	12.0
Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births.	47.1	57.1	81.0	92.	29.	12.
Total Death rate per 1000	7.2	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.5	8.5
Nett Death Rate per 1000	7.0	6.1	6.7	7.0	6.5	8.
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.1	0.0
Death rate from Phthisis per 1000	0.2	0.2	.6	.4	.3	.2
Death rate from Respiratory Diseases per 1000	0.4	0.2	0.3	.6	1.1	.2
Senile Mortality Deaths at 65 years & over as percentage of Nett Deaths.	50.0	39.5	40.4	44.	68.	64.

Death Rate Total 8.5, Nett 8, Birth Rate 12.

Infantile Mortality Rate 12 per 1000 Births.

Vital Statistics.

According to the figures of the Registrar General, the population of the District to middle of year 1925 is estimated at 6474 for statistical purposes.

The estimated population was 7434.

The Birth rate was 12 per 1000, a low rate.

The total number of Births was 81, Males 40, Females 41, 1 female was illegitimate.

The death of children under one year of age was 1 and equal to an infantile mortality rate of 12 per 1000 Births.

The cause of death was Premature Birth 1.

The Nett deaths registered were 56, Males 32, Females 24, equal to a rate of 8.0 per 1000. This death rate is satisfactory.

The principal causes of death were - Consumption 2, Cancer 13, Heart Disease 4, Bronchitis 2, Cerebral Haemorrhage 6, Suicide 2, Accident 1.

The Senile Mortality death rate was 64 per cent of total deaths registered over 65 years of age.

Cancer still claims the largest number of deaths. Investigations are still proceeding into the causes of Cancer. So far constipation and irritation are considered to be predisposing causes.

The Vital Statistics require little comment. The low Birth rate may be due to the ages of the resident population while the low death rate points to the favourable conditions of life prevailing at Seaford. The very small death rate of infants under one year of age is satisfactory. Deaths from infectious illness are absent from the District

General Remarks.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1925 is to be a survey report for the previous five years.

The report made by the Sanitary Inspector on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health in their Circular 684 (England) is so full of the necessary details that I need make few comments except perhaps the following. Seaford is known as one of the most healthy seaside resorts on the South Coast. It is chiefly residential Town with many advantages from a scolastic point of view. There are 25 Schools with a total number of 1128 children. It would be difficult to find anywhere such a desirable residence for children while they are receiving their education, for Seaford has an equable daily temperature bracing air exposed to the sea with a gentle slope inland. The daily sunshine is above the average record of adjoining Towns. There is a good promenade. The sea bathing is excellent and the country walks about the South Downs are very beautiful.

Considerable building has taken place during the past 5 years.

An attraction to Seaford is the well planned recreation ground, which now takes the place on the Sea Front of the former rough ground called the Salts.

A study of the infectious diseases notified in the District shows how exceptionally free from epidemics of the more severe illnesses the Town has here. The illnesses occurring in early school ages such as Chickenpox have occurred frequently during the past two years. This is attributed to children returning to school either before convalescence or during the incubating stage of the illness and thus infecting their schoolfellows.

The illness was confined to School children. I would suggest the discontinuance of the notification of Chickenpox.

For the present Seaford is dependent for lighting on Gas, with the exception of a few private installations of electric light plant. A Company is being promoted to supply Newhaven and Seaford with electric light.

During the past year the death of an infant aged 15 months was caused by coal gas poisoning, due to the relative placing the child in a small room on a bed to go to sleep. An inverted gas burner on a bracket was a short distance above the child's face, the gas was out but the tap was turned on, so that when a coin was placed in the penny in the slot meter to supply gas to the cooker in the adjoining room the gas escaped and suffocated the infant. An inquest was held and a report was asked for from the Medical Officer of Health. It was ascertained that the gas supplied from the Seaford Gas Company was not abnormally poisonous. Carburetted Water Gas is mixed with the coal gas.

At the latter end of the year the Hastings Corporation gave notice that they intended to apply for powers to take water by Wells from the chalk at Heighton near existing well of the Newhaven and Seaford Water Works. It was decided to oppose this Bill in Parliament as any interference with the Water Supply of Seaford would be a very serious matter.

COMPARATIVE RATES IN THE DISTRICT
AND IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Nett Death Rate.</u>
Seaford	12.	12.	8.
England and Wales	18.3	75.	12.2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	10	3	-
Chickenpox.	93	-	-
Enceph: Lethargica	1	-	-
Puerperal Fever	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Pul: Tuberculosis M 3: F 7.	10	M 2: F 6.	M 1.
Non: Pulmonary M 1: F 1.	2	M 1.	-

NURSING.

District Nurse provided by the Seaford Nursing Association.
Treatment for Venereal Diseases - Hastings, Tunbridge Wells and
Brighton Hospitals, by County Council.

Ambulances 2. { For infectious cases at Newhaven Urban
Isolation Hospital Brighton borough.
Non infectious cases & accidents - one

HOSPITALS.

Tuberculosis - Darvell Bank, Robertsbridge, by County Council.
Fever - Newhaven Urban Isolation Hospital.
Smallpox - Sedgebrook, Plumpton, East Sussex Western Conjoint
Hospital.
Enceph: Lethargica - Brighton Borough Hospital.



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LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements made with the Clinical Research Association also M.O.H. and Virol Research Laboratories and Royal Sussex Council Hospital.

The Newhaven and Seaford Water Co: supply water to the District. The water is obtained from deep Wells in the Chalk. The water is of great purity and is supplied under constant pressure. The quantity is sufficient. The average quantity supplied per head of the population daily is 19 gallons.

SANITARY STAFF.

M.O.H. qualified D.P.H. - part time.

Sanitary Inspector qualified Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector Mr. Morcom succeeded Mr. Kemp at the beginning of the year, his work has been very good. His Report is appended and shows a knowledge of the details of the routine work of a Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I thank the Council for the courtesy extended to me during the past year.

I thank the Clerk and other Officials of the Council for their kindly assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

HUGH STOTT.

S E A F O R D U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 1925.

XX

Natural and Social conditions of the area.

Area (in acres)	3078
Population (Census 1921)	6989
do: (Estimated 1925)	7434
No. of inhabited houses (1921)	1161
" " families or separate occupiers (1921).	1110
Rateable value 1925	£45748
Sum represented by a penny rate	£172

The area is situated on rising ground from Sea Level to 300 feet above, on a chalk subsoil, with about 3 miles of sea frontage.

The town is primarily a seaside resort, and the main occupation of the inhabitants is the catering for summer visitors. The social conditions are good.

General Provisions of Health Services for area.

Hospitals available.

Tuberculosis.	Darvell Bank, Robertsbridge.
Fever.	Newhaven Urban Isolation Hospital
Small Pox.	Sedgebrook, Plumpton. East Sx
	Western Conjoint Hospital.
Encephalitis Lethergica.	} Brighton Corporation
Malaria, Dysentery, Trench	
Fever, Acute Primary	
Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal	
Pneumonia.	
Accidents etc.	Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

Ambulance facilities.

For infectious cases, Hospital Ambulances are available. For non-infectious and accident cases one ambulance is provided. One is also available from the Sx. County Hospital.

Public Health Officers.

M.O.H.	Qualified D.P.H. part time.
Sanitary Inspector.	Certificated - Associate Royal Sanitary Institute. This Officer is also Building Inspector to the Local Authority.

Professional Nursing.

A District Nurse is provided by the Seaford Nursing Association.

Chemical Work.

Arrangements are made with the Clinical Research Association, also M.C.H. and Virol Research Laboratories and Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Legislation in Force.

Bye-laws relating to New Streets and Buildings	May 1925.
" " " " Nuisances	Feb:1896
" " " " Slaughterhouses	" "
" " " " Cemeteries	" "
Regulations relating to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	Sept:1903.
Public Health Act (Amendment Act) 1890	
" " " " " 1907.	

Sanitary circumstances of the area.

Water.

Four cottages at Cuckmere have only rainwater and one at Exceat Bridge is supplied by a well. The remaining dwelling-houses are supplied direct with a constant supply from the Seaford and Newhaven Water Company's wells. The quantity is sufficient and of good quality.

Rivers and Streams.

There is one tidal stream - the Cuckmere River - which forms part of the boundary of the area.

Drainage and Sewerage and Closet accomodation.

No. of Houses in district	1249
" " " now connected to sewer	1223
" " " " " cesspools	15
" " " with pail closets	11

The district is drained by combined sewers to the Sea outfall on the east of the town. Two sections are lifted by "Shone" Ejectors. The houses not connected are on the outlying parts of the district.

Scavenging.

House refuse is removed once per week by the Council and is disposed of at the Council's Destructor. Cesspools are emptied by the Council. The occupiers of the eleven cottages are responsible for emptying their pail closets.

Sanitary Inspector of area.

No. of houses inspected	129
" " " re-inspected	48
" " informal notices served	179
" " Statutory notices served	1
" " nuisances discovered and abated	96
" " new dust bins provided	30
" " drains tested	3
" " inspections of Stables	40
" " " " Piggeries	20

All the notices have been complied with. For inspections etc. of Slaughterhouses, Cowsheds etc. see later sections of Factories etc. Form 572.

Schools.

There are 24 (16 boys 8 girls) Private Residential Schools and 2 (1 boys and 1 girls and infants) Elementary Schools in the district. The sanitary conditions and water supply are good.

Housing.

1. General Housing conditions.

- (2)(a) There is a shortage of working class dwellings, as shown by the number of houses occupied by more than one family.
- (b) In addition to a housing scheme of twenty houses the Council are granting subsidies under the Housing Act, 1923, and loans under Section 92 of the Housing Act, 1925.
- (3) No important change of population has occurred in the period under review nor is any anticipated in the future.

2. Overcrowding.

There are no cases of overcrowding known.

3. Fitness of houses.

- (1)(a) The general standard of housing in the area is fairly high.
- (b) The main defects found to exist are defective roofs, guttering, windows and walls causing dampness.
- (c) These defects are chiefly due to the lack of proper management and supervision by the owners. In a few cases the houses are very old and almost beyond repair.
- (2) No houses have been found unfit for occupation.
- (3) Defects have usually been remedied by owners after service of informal notices.
- (4) The conditions of housing, water supply, closet accomodation are satisfactory.

4. Unhealthy areas.

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

5. Byelaws relating to houses, house let in lodgings etc.

- (a) There are no Byelaws relating to above except Byelaws with regard to New Streets and Buildings.
(b) At present there is no need of any new byelaws.

General and Miscellaneous for period under review.

- (a) The Council has laid out 15 acres of land as a Recreation Ground for Football, Cricket, Bowls, tennis etc. The Tennis Pavilion has lavatories for both sexes and the Bowls Pavilion lavatories for men.
(b) The Council is erecting 20 houses on $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land with 500 feet lineal of new road, sewer, water and gas mains.
(c) A Widening Scheme is in progress for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Class 1 Road.
(d) 3,000 feet lineal of new private roads have been laid out with sewer and water main.

Number of new houses erected.

1921	19
1922	21
1923	39
1924	43
1925	66
TOTAL	<u>188</u>

No connections to sewers or watermains have been made except to new houses.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	66
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :-	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	12

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection - (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	129
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	33
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	16

2.	<u>Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.</u> Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	83
3.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers.</u>	
A.	<u>Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.</u>	
	(1) number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
	(2) number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
	(a) By Owners	8
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	(3) number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners on intention to close ..	Nil
B.	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>	
	(1) number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
	(2) number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a) By Owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
C.	<u>Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.</u>	
	(1) number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	Nil
	(2) (2) number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
	(3) number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
	(4) number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
	(5) number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition Orders	Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

Most of the milk consumed is produced within the district. The cowsheds and dairies are kept in a cleanly condition. A fair proportion of the milk (not graded) is bottled at the dairies and delivered to the consumers without being unsealed.

(i) No action has been taken with regard to tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

(ii) Licences have been granted to two retailers to sell (Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk and to one retailer to sell "Certified" Milk.

- (iii) It has not been found necessary to refuse or revoke any licences for retailers to sell graded milk.
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No. of Cowsheds in District	9
" " Inspections of Cowsheds	41
" " Dairies and Milkshops	7
" " Inspections of Dairies and Milkshops .	22
" " Notices served on occupiers of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	20

These notices have been complied with.

b. Meat.

- (i) Only a small percentage of meat consumed is slaughtered within the District. The occupiers of one slaughterhouse have fixed times for slaughter and the occupiers of the remaining two give notice.
The animals inspected have been practically free from disease. The Council's Destructor is available for condemned meat. There are no arrangements for marking meat.
- (ii) All shops, stores and vehicles are kept under constant supervision and have always been found clean. The necessary precautions are taken against contamination against flies and dirt. No stalls are erected within the district.
- (iii) There are no public slaughterhouses in the district.

Private Slaughterhouses.

	in 1920.	in January 1925	in December 1925
Registered	2	2	2
Licensed	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
Total	$\frac{3}{3}$	$\frac{3}{3}$	$\frac{3}{3}$
No. of visits paid to Slaughterhouses			130
" " notices served on occupiers of slaughterhouses			10

These notices have been complied with.

c. Other Foods.

Bakehouses and other premises where foods are manufactured etc. for sale are visited periodically and have been found in a sanitary condition.

No. of Bakehouses in District	5
" " Underground Bakehouses in District	1
" " Factory " " "	2
" " Workshop " " "	3
" " Notices served on occupiers of Bakehouses ..	10
" " Inspections of Bakehouses	30

These notices have been complied with.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year
1925.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	--	--	--
Scarlet Fever	10	3	--
Diphtheria	--	--	--
Enteric Fever	--	--	--
Puerperal Fever	1	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--	--
Chicken Pox	93	--	--
Erysipelas	1	--	--
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	--	--
Total	106	3	nil

Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act,
1901, in connection with Factories,
Workshops and Workplaces.

Inspections.

Factories	20
Workshops	70
Workplaces	<u>20</u>
Total	<u>110</u>

XX

(Signed)

F. MORCOM.

Sanitary Inspector.

8th. February, 1926.

